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ADRC FOI CASE NO. 5-R201

1957 OCT 23 PM 12:09

Control: 14158
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FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 147, October 22, 8 p.m.

Foreign Minister informed Diplomatic Corps this afternoon GOG regretfully resolved declare state of siege for 30 days effective immediately. He explained manifestation last night was part of concerted action other parts of country. He placed blame for disturbances and prevailing atmosphere of tension on FR.

Under state of siege certain guarantees including right of assembly suspended. Curfew established tentatively for midnight.

State of siege decree points out FR continued demonstrate its subversive intentions even after it was declared illegal and organized clandestinely try prevent elections from taking place. It says Ydigoras Party redencion* prejudged legality of elections creating seditious climate tguidenbkring* FR purposes.

Decree charged Ydigoras impugned elections without having recourse established legal procedures and his followers in combination with Communist groups were challenging constitutional order, organizing illegal manifestations and inciting army and people to disobey law.

Decree stated also National Security Agency confirmed reports action instigated by Ydigoras was part of plan overthrow GOG defying public authority with open rebellion. It explained need preserve order required army exercise its full powers under state of siege.

In defiance state of siege perhaps 10,000 demonstrators converged

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converged on central square this evening. Police and soldiers prevented them from entering square and gradually dispersed them using tear gas. Some damage was done street signs and shop windows.

Ydigoras followers say they plan sitdown strike tomorrow and agitators in tonight's crowd were calling for general strike. Manner in which police and soldiers handled tonight's demonstartion is encouraging but atmosphere is still tense and more serious disturbance could occur at any time.

SPARKS

VH:BDW/7

*As received. Will be serviced upon request.

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OCT 28 1957